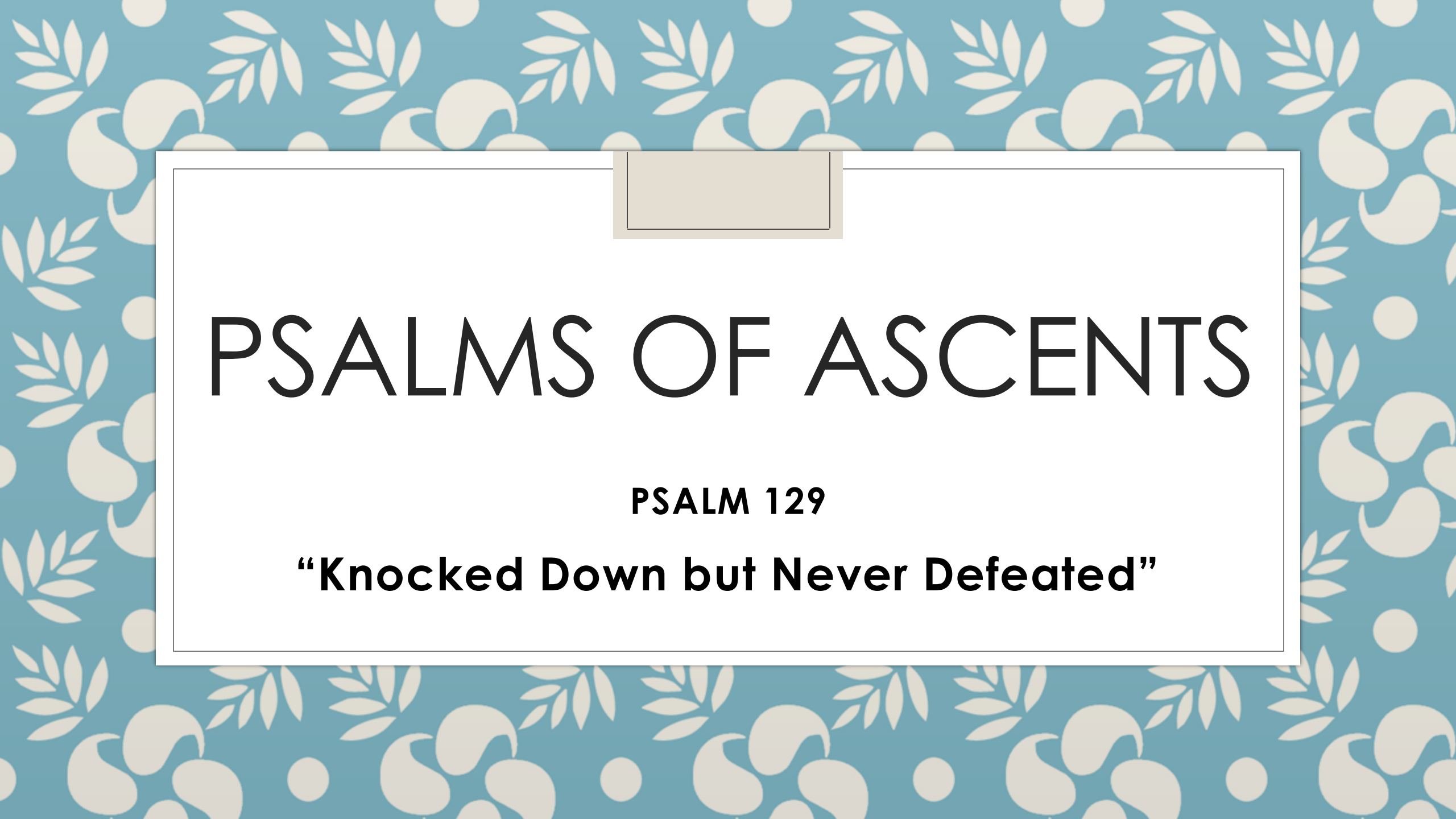




PSALMS OF ASCENTS

PSALM 129

“Knocked Down but Never Defeated”

ANCIENT STRING PSALTERY OF KING DAVID'S TIME





1700S KING OF PRUSSIA

King Frederick the Great had
a question and wanted to
know about the bible



“I S R A E L,

Your Majesty”

It is a main point of Psalm 129!

Objectives: Psalm 129 -

Teach you to endure scorn or contempt about your Christian faith

Help you define “imprecatory prayer” and discuss its lesson for your prayer life

Enable you to discover where there is joy in this rather somber psalm

THEME

***SONG OF VICTORY OVER ZION'S
ENEMIES***

(Charles Spurgeon)

PSALM 129 STRUCTURE: 2 PARTS

Verses 1-4 look back, use the image of plowing, refer to “the wicked”, and use the covenant name, the LORD, at the end.

Verses 5-8 look forward, use the image of harvest, refer to those “who hate Zion”, and use the covenant name, the LORD, twice at the end.

Covenant name: the LORD

IN THE BIBLE O.T. 6,800 TIMES--LORD:

YAHWEH (YHWH)

O.T. “ADONAI”

“I AM WHO I AM”

Represents His self-existent, faithful, present and eternal nature



LET ISRAEL NOW SAY

STRONG WORDS !!!

**“Greatly have they afflicted me
from my youth,**

**“Yet, they have not prevailed
against me.”**



GRUESOME, HORRIFYING IMAGES

**“The plowers plowed
upon my back;**

**“They made long their
furrows.”**

ENOUGH...remember Psalm 123:

“For we have had enough;
for our souls have had more than enough”

You feel that the pilgrims want to cry out Psalm
121:

“From where does my help come?”

“It comes from the LORD...”

◦ DELIVERANCE !

◦ ...and we are catapulted to a different mindset...there is JOY in our midst!

**“THE LORD IS RIGHTEOUS;
“He has cut the cords of the
wicked.”**

F R E E D O M

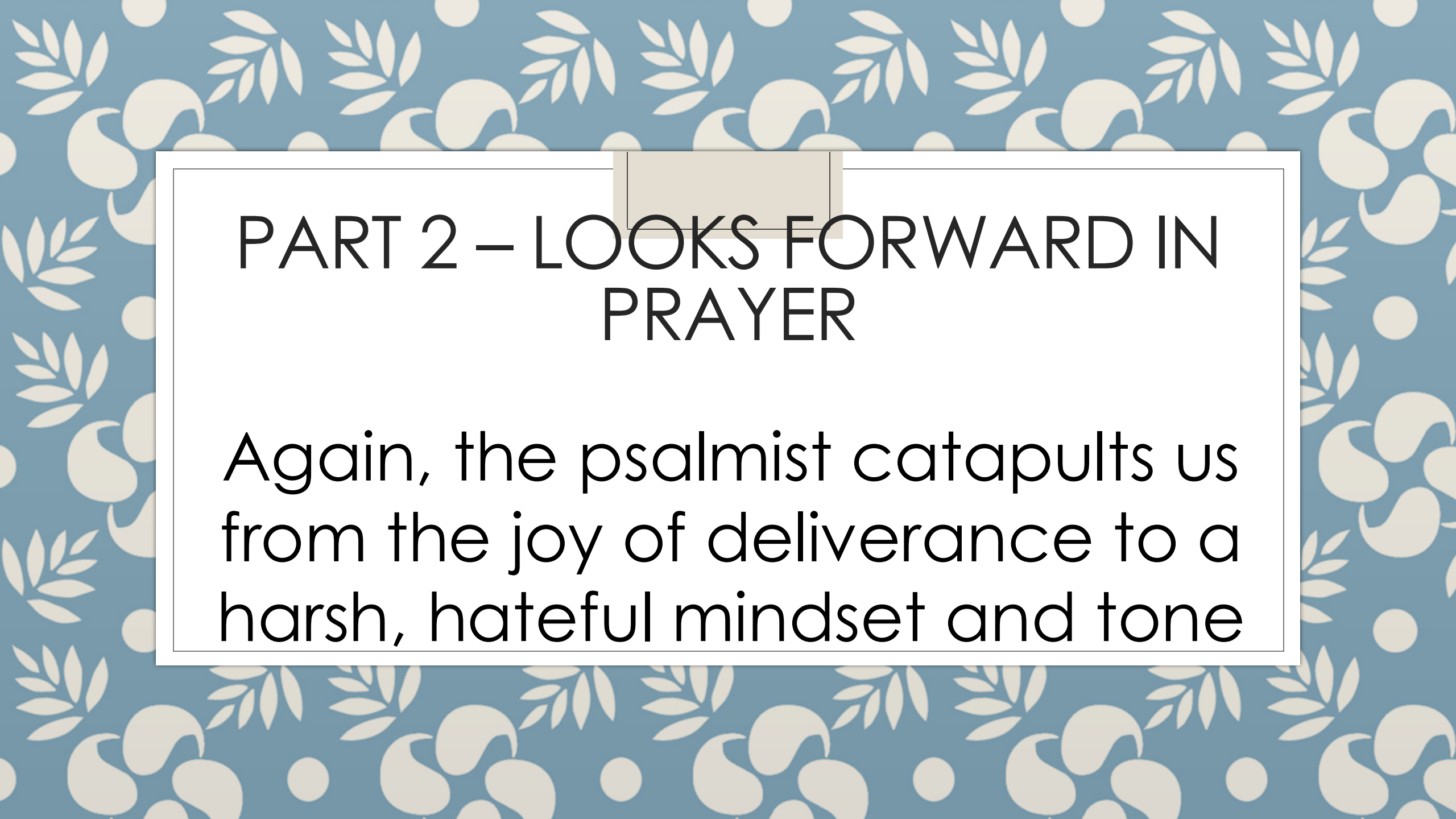
From scorn, contempt, persecution, and
from worldly sin, eternal destruction, death

DELIVERANCE!

The Psalmist sings not only of the Pilgrims' deliverance, but also of the survival of the Church, and ...

And his song FORESHADOWS ...

CHRIST JESUS



PART 2 – LOOKS FORWARD IN PRAYER

Again, the psalmist catapults us from the joy of deliverance to a harsh, hateful mindset and tone

THE “IMPRECATORY PRAYER”

Definition:

These are prayers asking God for the defeat and destruction of Israel's enemies, and therefore, of God's enemies; the pilgrims are asking God to bring about His judgment.

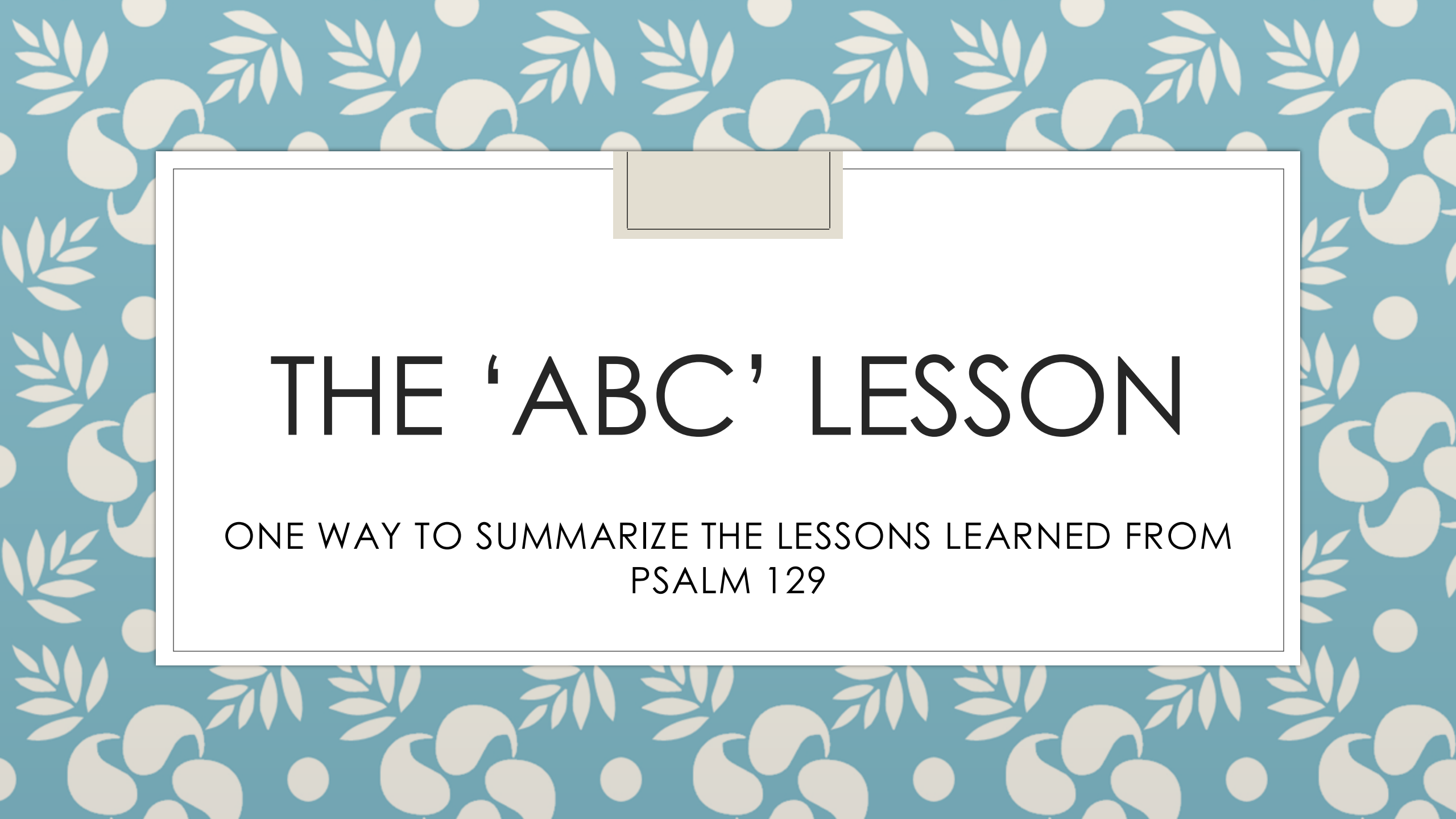
(Verses 5-8) “**May all who hate Zion...**

- “be put to **shame** and **turned backward!**”
- ...be **like withering grass** that will not grow,
- ...provide **no produce** for the **reaper** nor for the **binder** to be gathered...

...And, in the final verse 8, let no one give them the LORD'S Blessing:

“Nor do those who pass by say, ‘The blessing of the LORD be upon you!’”

- To bless them would be akin to taking part in their sin against God.



THE 'ABC' LESSON

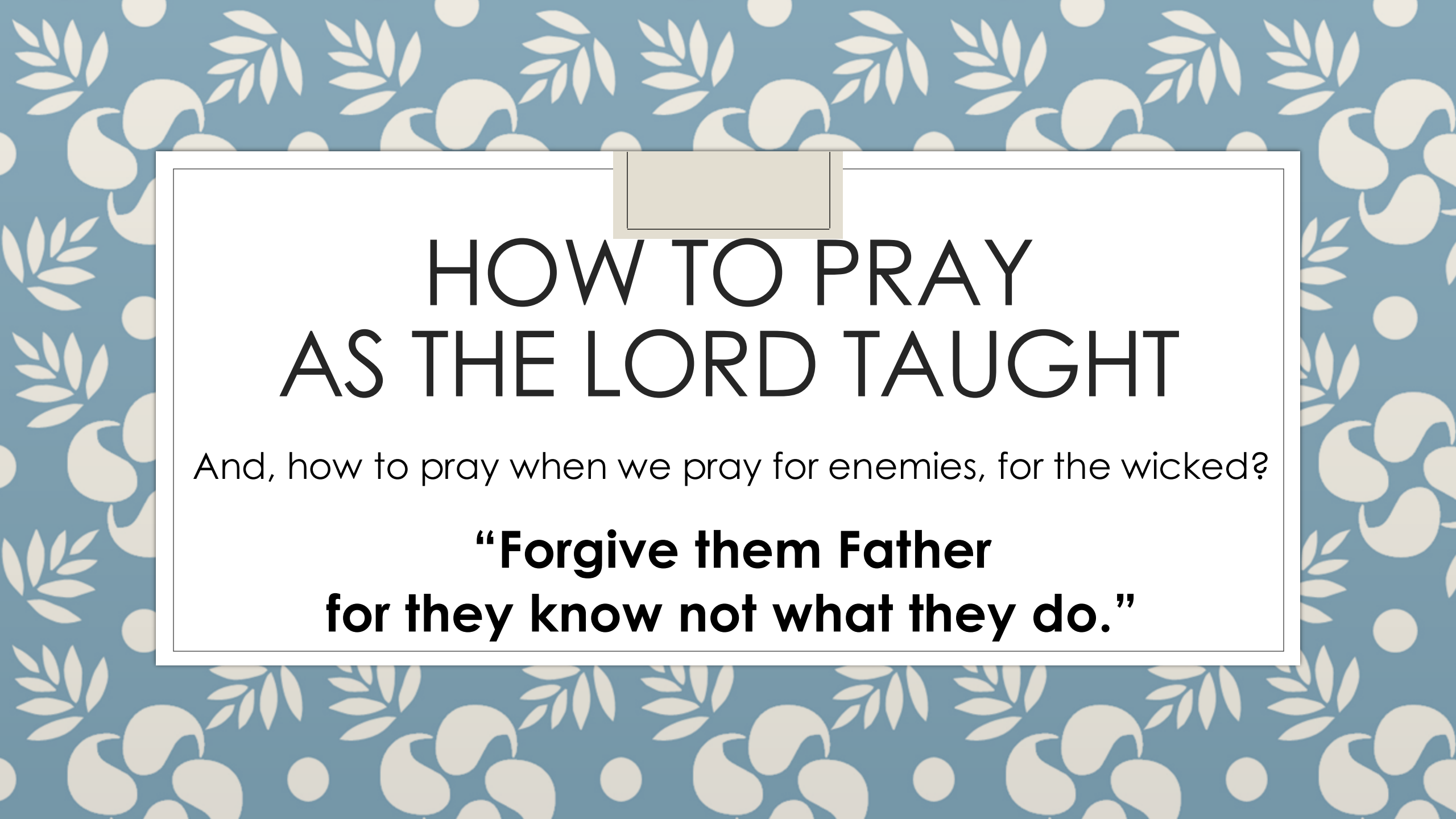
ONE WAY TO SUMMARIZE THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM
PSALM 129

HANDLING SCORN, CONTEMPT, AFFLICTIONS...

A - ACCEPT IT – Gain a proper perspective on persecution and suffering

B- BENEFIT FROM IT – Gain a proper view of God's preservation of His people

C-COMMIT TO THE LORD – Gain a proper view of the ministry and mercy of Christ



HOW TO PRAY AS THE LORD TAUGHT

And, how to pray when we pray for enemies, for the wicked?

**“Forgive them Father
for they know not what they do.”**

Here are three suggestions:

- **Take evil seriously** – “There is no neutrality in spiritual warfare.” (Christopher Ash)
- **Leave it to God** – no personal vendetta; “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” (Rom 12:19)
- **Align our will with God’s will** – to set oneself against the Lord will mean curse, not blessing. (Col 3:17)



The early Pilgrims sang prayers on their journey to Jerusalem -

- They were reminding themselves that no matter how many times the world knocked them down, they were on the road to blessing and salvation!

- VICTORY !
- JOY !!